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The Rainfall of California. By A. G. McAdie. Maps. *Univ. of California Public. in Geogr.*, Vol. 1, 1914, No. 4, pp. 127-240. Berkeley. $1. 11 x 7½.

An excellent, clean-cut and readable monograph comes as a fitting contribution from Professor A. G. McAdie at the end of his long term of service as local forecast official of the Weather Bureau at San Francisco. It is a satisfaction to see the emphasis which is here laid upon the conditions and controls of rainfall, instead of the usual method of presenting only the bare facts of amounts and distribution. The author clearly brings out the importance of the control exercised by the permanent centers of action, as well as by the temporary cyclones and anticyclones. In other words, weather is here considered, as well as climate. We note, *e. g.*, charts of sea-level pressures and of the paths of low and high areas in typical "wet" and "dry" winter months. The excess of rainfall in one of the former was approximately 43,000,000 acre feet, and the deficiency in one of the latter was about 33,000,000 acre feet. The economic significance of such conditions is easily appreciated.

We are glad to note the emphasis laid upon topography, and to see photographic reproductions of models of California and of southern California. Such illustrations are a great help to those who are studying the data contained in the report. Special attention is paid to the long-period record for San Francisco; to the variation of rainfall with altitude, and to the snowfall at Summit, for which station there are thirty-five years of observations. The annual amount of snowfall at this place has twice exceeded 775 inches in thirty-five years. There is an interesting discussion of the rate of snow melting, and Fig. 10 shows a photograph of a highly ingenious model, devised by Professor McAdie, which has made possible a comparison of the actual curve of melting for any given season with the mean curve, so that the probable date of the snow's disappearance may be determined. A chart shows the rainfall of California on the basis of thirty years of records, and the monthly distribution of rainfall at selected stations is shown in a diagram. Other illustrations are of the prevailing winds of the Pacific Ocean, and of the ocean currents off the coast of California. Detailed studies of this kind are needed for every state in the Union. R. DEC. WARD.

Report of the Meteorological Station at Berkeley, Cal., for the Year ending June 30, 1913. By William G. Reed. *Univ. of Cal. Public. in Geogr.*, Vol. 1, 1914, No. 6, pp. 247-306. Map, ills. 60 cents. 10½ x 7.

Mr. Reed's report of the University of California meteorological station is a model one in every respect. Complete, systematic, thoroughly up with the times, it might well be taken as a pattern for similar reports elsewhere. Among the many features which especially deserve attention and commendation are the careful description of the instruments and of their exposure (the latter clearly illustrated by three contour maps and four photographs); the adoption of the new C. G. S. units; the clear tabulation and discussion of the cyclonic control and classification of the rainfalls—a sadly neglected and most essential feature in meteorological and climatic summaries; and, finally, the excellent diagrams. R. DEC. WARD.

Summaries of Climatological Data by Sections. Vol. 1: Sections 1 to 57, inclusive, embracing the sections west of the Mississippi River. Vol. 2: Sections 58 to 106 inclusive, embracing the sections east of the Mississippi River. Maps, diagrams. *Weather Bur. Bull. W.* Washington, 1912. 11½ x 9½.

Whenever a large amount of statistical data of any sort has been collected, it is a great help to have them summarized in compact and serviceable form. *Bulletin W* contains all the essential climatological data of the United States which are likely to be needed for everyday use by those whose work or interests concern our climate. A very large mass of numerical material is here brought together in a convenient form for ready reference, and most of the questions concerning climatic conditions in the United States which are daily asked by hundreds of persons here find an answer. The country is divided into 106 ''climatological sections.'' For each section there is a well-considered brief summary of the topographical and the climatic features. Then follows a compact digest of the climatological material which has accumulated during the last half-century, not alone by averages for the whole period, but, for the most important data, by individual months and years as well. Monthly and annual amounts of precipitation, averages and extremes of temperature, frost data, wind velocity and direction, and other information, are presented for each station which has a record long enough to give a fairly accurate picture of the actual climatic conditions. Where data are available, a summary (furnished by the U. S. Geological Survey) gives some of the broader facts regarding the average, maximum and minimum discharges of the principal rivers and streams; the possibilities of water storage, power development, and other details useful to engineers. For each section there is also a full page of diagrams showing the comparative monthly distribution of precipitation at selected stations. These diagrams illustrate very clearly the occurrence of wet and dry seasons, and the local variations in rainfall due to topography and general environment. One of the most useful features is the contoured topographic map of each section, showing the location of the stations and of the principal rivers. These maps supply a need which has long been felt by all those who have had occasion to work on our climatological data. The period covered by the data varies. For most sections the last year in the tables is 1908. In some cases it is later (1909 or 1910). The *Annual Reports of the Chief of the Weather Bureau* will hereafter contain the continuations of these data. It was the intention of the Weather Bureau to give a history of the climate of the United States in as convenient a form for reference as possible. This object has been successfully attained. On the library shelves of every teacher and student of American climatology, and within easy reach of his hand, *Bulletin W* will hereafter be found, next to Professor A. J. Henry's ''*Climatology of the United States*'' (*Bulletin Q,* 1906).

R. DeC. Ward.

The Natural History of the Toronto Region, Ontario, Canada. Edited by J. H. Faull. 419 pp. Maps, ills., index. Canadian Inst., Toronto, 1913. $2. 7½ x 5.

This book was prepared for the Twelfth Geological Congress, and for all who are interested in the history and natural history of Toronto and vicinity. The work consists of articles contributed by specialists in their respective fields. The last chapter is devoted to a description of the points of scientific interest near Toronto, and how to reach them. There are a number of illustrations and maps; and in the pocket are three larger, unbound maps, for field use, of the county of York and portions of the adjacent counties of Peel, Halton, Simcoe and Ontario; the counties of Lincoln and Welland with portions of Halton, Wentworth and Haldimand; and Toronto and environs.

Wilbur Greeley Burroughs.

New England and New France. Contrasts and Parallels in Colonial History. By James Douglas. x and 560 pp. Maps, ills., index. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1913. $3. 9 x 6.

A native of Quebec, reared on the scene of memorable events, the author became a mining engineer, gained fame in his profession, and acquired in spare moments a ripe knowledge of the history of his native region. This work of sound erudition has grown out of these combined elements. Using the most reliable documents available he has brought to his book originality of touch by his clear comprehension of the economic causes affecting the events of the period he treats. A lifetime of important association with one of the greatest of American industries has been a valuable asset in the preparation of his work. He has spared no pains in research. The high-spirited French colonists are vividly contrasted with the unemotional and matter-of-fact English settlers. Well-chosen quotations from diaries and journals give clear ideas of the colonists' daily life. Leon Dominian.